[English]

Disinvestment Policy

2242. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are pursuing the Public Sector Undertakings disinvestment policy in luke-warm pace;

(b) whether the PSU disinvestment policy has resulted in any appreciable reduction in public debt and associated interest burden;

(c) whether the turn over of PSUs is below 3% of the capital invested in PSUs;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to consider application of commercial principles in public sector enterprises and also reduction, in phases, of the gross subsidy being given to power sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The limited exercise of disinvestment inter alia is aimed at raising resources without inflationary effect to reduce fiscal deficit. Now according to the Common Minimum Programme the said resources would be spent on education and health in backward areas and for PSUs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). PSUs are expected to operate along Commercial lines and by and large they do so. The CPSUs in the Power Sector already run on Commercial Principles and are not being given any subsidy.

Export of Prawn

2243. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to encourage prawn exports during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the annual target set up for its export during the remaining period of Eighth Plan; and

(c) the achievements made so far and the estimated contributions of prawn exporters from Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Prawns consitute one of the most important items in exports of marine products from India. In order to boost export of prawn from India, shrimp farming has been identified as an extreme focus item. The Government of India has been implementing through the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), a number of promotional schemes for augmenting exports of prawns through aquaculture. During the Eighth Five Year Plan a target was set to develop one lakh hectares of area for shrimp farming and currently around 1.19 lakh hectare has already been brought under shrimp farming. Besides this, the export of prawns, which stood at 76080 MT valued at Rs. 975.43 crores at the end of the year 1991-92 increased to 95697 MT valued at Rs. 2356.43 crores at the end of the year 1995-96. During the current year, which, happens to be the last year of the Eighth Five Year Plan, 108450 MT of prawns valued at Rs. 2964 crores are targeted to be exported. Against this target, 59910 MT of prawns valued at Rs. 1475.88 crores have been exported in the period (April-September) 1996-97. The estimated contribution from the State of Kerala in the year 1996-97 is 42,700 MT valued at Rs. 561.02 crores.

Bank Dues Against Sick Units

2244. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of sick units and the total financial liabilities thereof as on date;

(b) the details of the policy for recovery of dues of financial institutions and commercial banks from these units;

(c) the details of existing provisions to protect the interest of workers including their dues from these units; and

(d) the efforts being made to curb this spreading menace in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) As per the information provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the total number of sick/weak units with outstanding bank credit of scheduled commercial banks as at the end of March 1995 (latest available) were as under :

(Rs. crores)

Category	No. of Units	Outstanding Bank Credit
SSI Sick	268815	3547.16
Non-SSI Sick	1915	8739.61
Non-SSI Weak	476	1452.20
Total	271206	1373.97

(b) and (d). Detailed guidelines have been issued by RBI regarding formulation/implementation of rehabilitation packages in respect of sick/weak units (including sick SSI units) considered potentially viable for their revival. Rehabilitation packages *inter-alia*, provide for funding of existing dues of banks and

financial institutions with extended period for repayment thereof in a phased manner, interest concessions, grant of fresh term loans as also fresh working capital facilities. As regards non-SSI sick industrial companies, Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), a quasi-judicial body set up under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 takes necessary action for determination of preventive, ameliorative, remedial and other measures and for enforcement of such measures.

Banks/financial institutions take action to recover their dues as per their laid down rules/procedures. With a view to facilitate expeditious adjudication and recovery of debts due to banks and financial institutions, Government have enacted the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 to facilitate quicker recoveries of loan arrears.

(c) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that while formulating a revival package in respect of a sick industrial company, the unpaid dues of the workers and settlement thereof proposed by the management are also taken into account at the time of drawing up the cost of the rehabilitation package and means of finance.

Custom Policy

2245. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposed to review customs policy; and

(b) if so, the main features of the policy and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Customs Policy mainly consists of two aspects, namely, Customs Tariff Policy and the Procedures.

While Customs Tariff Policy is reviewed every year, as a part of the Budget exercise; the policy relating to Customs procedures is reviewed from time to time in consultation with other concerned Ministries.

Development of Poultry by NABARD

2246. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NABARD has undertaken a study on the development of poultry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to draw any long term plan for the growth of poultry industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected, and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Multinational Companies

2247. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether European Commission propose to isolate India on its stand on multinational companies;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Export of Cotton Yarn

2248. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have released additional export quota for cotton yarn for 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the target fixed for cotton yarn export during the last three years and the achievement made; and

(d) the projection of cotton yarn export to be made during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government have enhanced the ceiling for export of cotton yarn of 40s and below counts for 1996 by 30 million kgs. i.e., from 80 million kgs. to 110 million kgs.

(c) The export targets and the actual exports of cotton yarn during the past three years have been as given below.

Year	Export Target (In Million US$)	Exports (In Million US$)
1993-94	411.31	512.97
1994-95	530.50	832.34
1995-96	550.00	1011.54

(d) A target of US$ 1250 Million has been fixed for exports of cotton yarn during 1996-97.

[Translation]

Setting up Industrial Unit in Gujarat

2249. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received some proposals from abroad for setting up industrial units in Gujarat State especially in tribal majority areas of the State during the last three years, till date;